Guidelines for the Advanced Use of the *Vimshottari Dasha*

Among the many *dashas* systems given in the ancient *Jyotisha shastra*, the *Vimshottari dasha,* consisting of a 120-year cycle, is highlighted in the *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra* as the "King" of *dasha* systems and the one most appropriate for the age in which we live, the *Kali Yuga*, or "Dark Age."

- It must be calculated ***only*** on the basis of *chitrapaksha ayanamsha* (better known as "Lahiri *ayanamsha*) to get correct results.

- Then one must have a structured, systematic methodology for using it that leads you to interpretive conclusions step by step in a logical, progressive analysis and synthesis.

- This analysis must include an assessment of the major period and sub-periods, not only in the birth chart, but also in the key divisional charts (*vargas*) pertaining to the common concerns of life such as *dashamsha* (D-10) for career, *navamsha* (D-9) for marital relationships, *saptamsha* for D-7) etc.

- However, the great difficulty/problem with this is accurate birth times. Is the given birth time accurate enough to give correct divisional charts, or even a correct birth chart? Even recorded times from a hospital record or birth certificates may not be precisely accurate. Therefore every birth time and the charts it produces must remain suspect until the timing in the life "proves" it to be accurate.

- The basic methodology for using the *Vimshottari dasha* is as follows:

Step 1: See the condition and the house placement of the *dasha* and *antardasha* lords in *rashi* and *navamsha*.

Step 2: See their strength

Step 3: See their mutual position to each other

Step 4: See the degree of association with each other

Step 5: See their association with other planets and participation in planetary *yogas*

Step 6: Characterize the period in a general way on a favorableness scale.

Step 7 : Draw inferences based on synthesizing the meanings of the planets, signs, and houses, along with what has been discerned from steps 1-6.

- However, a more advanced, complete, and correct use of the *Vimshottari dasha* means doing such an analysis from three different perspectives:

  From birth *lagna*
  From *chandra lagna*
  From *dasha lagna*

- It also means applying all 7 steps and these three perspectives to the divisional charts starting with the *navamsha*, and then those divisional charts pertaining to the most common concerns of life, or to the question/issue of most interest to a person.

- Of course, if a birth time is only approximate it cannot be relied upon to give correct *lagnas* in the divisional charts, but one can at least see the dignity/condition of a planet in a divisional chart.

- When in a birth chart, a *dasha* lord is strong, in good conditions, and configured in benefic *yogas*, AND continues to be so from different *lagnas*, AND continues to be so in relevant divisional charts, uncommonly good results can occur. If the reverse is true, uncommonly unfavorable results can occur. Most periods produced mixed results, some favorable and some unfavorable, and different results in different areas of life, which can be seen using the divisional charts.

- Interpretation proceeds through a processes of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis, and the weighing up of many, oftentimes contradictory factors. One should always look for repeating themes from different perspectives when evaluating a *dasha* or *antardasha* lord.

- Always keep in mind the most general guidelines given the *Jyotisha shastra* for interpreting periods/sub-periods, which is as follows:

Examine the mutual positions of the current *mahadasha* lord (MDL) and *antardasha* lord (ADL).

1. From the MDL, if the ADL is in an angle or trine it is a positive /favorable point.

2. From the MDL, if the ADL is in 6, 8, 12 it may be a negative/unfavorable point.

3. From the MDL, if the ADL is in the 2nd or the 7th house (maraka) in may be a negative point, though not invariably.

<u>Apply The Key Principle From Laghu Parashari</u>

"Benefic or malefic planets typically do not give their primary benefic or malefic results in their own antardashas. They give their results in the antardashas of planets associated with them or similar to them i.e. malefic in malefic, or benefic in benefic."

This means that the when the *mahadasha* lord and the *antardasha* lord are associated, the results indicated by the *mahadasha* lord predominate. When they are not associated, the *antardasha* lord predominately gives in own results.

The strongest associations between planets in descending order are:

1. mutual exchange (*parivarthana yoga*)
2. conjunction
3. mutual aspect
4. aspect from dispositor (Example: Mars in Sagittarius aspected by Jupiter)

Before giving any interpretation or predictions, offer a prayer to Lord Ganesha because it is only with divine guidance that accuracy can be obtained in such an overwhelmingly complex, oftentimes confusing process. This is why my jyotisha-guru has always emphasized the importance of spiritual practice (sadhana) in becoming a proficient astrologer.

And even them remember, "*Astrologers predict and God laughs*."